

Nature Connections

— In Southwest Missouri — September/October 2012 —



**Joplin Office in the
Wildcat Glades
Conservation &
Audubon Center**

Page 2

**Andy Dalton Shooting
Range & Outdoor
Education Center**

Page 3

**Springfield
Conservation Nature
Center**

Pages 4 & 5

**Shepherd of the
Hills Fish Hatchery &
Conservation Center**

Page 6

**Southwest Regional
Office**

Page 7

Hunter Education

Page 7

**Conservation Area
Showcase**

Page 8

Black bears, once common in Missouri, have begun making a slow comeback to the state. It is interesting to note that according to Daniel McKinley's *The History of Black Bear in Missouri*, black bears began disappearing from southwest Missouri by the early 1800s and the last recorded regional bear sightings were from Webster, Christian, and Taney Counties in 1884 and 1889 respectively, just where they are being found again in 2012.

Background

In September 2010 the Missouri Department of Conservation, in cooperation with Mississippi State University, the University of Missouri, and with funding from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, began the first ever black bear research project in Missouri. This science-based conservation effort involved personnel from multiple divisions assisting in capturing and collaring black bears across the southwest portion of the state.

The project will help wildlife biologists establish long-term information on which to base future management decisions about black bears. It will also help to determine regional population estimates, learn when sows and cubs hibernate, and establish a sex and age structure which will help predict the population growth rate.

The project has had two main efforts—trapping and collaring bears with radio collars and collecting bear hair through a hair snaring effort.

From September 2010 through June 2012, 71 bears have been trapped which includes some that have been recaptured. Today there are 50 bears that are equipped with GPS collars so they can be tracked. Currently 41 collars are still active and 9 collars have an unknown fate and are no longer sending signals.

Interesting Findings

In 2011 Mississippi State University Graduate Student Clay Wilton and crew set up stations to collect hair samples from wildlife. They tended 358 hair snare sites all over southwest Missouri and collected 596 hair samples, 26 percent of which were determined to be from bear. Hair snare efforts are continuing in 2012 and crews have gathered 928 hair samples, 31 percent of which have proven to be from bears.

DNA analysis on the hair is being conducted by Emily Puckett, a Graduate Student in the Eggert Laboratory at the University of Missouri. To infer the source of the bear hair, genotypes will be compared with those from bears in Arkansas, Minnesota, Louisiana, and Oklahoma to determine where the bears are from. DNA has shown that some bears in Webster County have



DNA that doesn't match with other bears in the region. More information is needed to determine if these bears are native to the area. Locating a historic bear skin, skull, or teeth from southern Webster County would be helpful in comparing DNA from current Webster County bears to determine if the bears are native to the area.

The initial population model showed a southwest Missouri bear population of around 108. The hair snare and trapping efforts, originally scheduled to end in 2011, were extended through 2012 to collect additional data.

- **Home ranges:** The final home ranges have not been established yet but it is readily apparent that adult male bears have vastly larger home ranges than do the adult female bears.

- **Denning Dates:** Initial results from 2010 monitoring indicate that males and females denned at different times. The average denning date for males was December 11. The average denning date for females was November 30. Results show that females with cubs den first, then females without cubs, then adult males, and finally young males go to their dens last. In some warm winters (like this past winter), some bears may not den at all.

- **Weights and Measures:** The weights of the bears have varied greatly. Cubs of the year are around 70 pounds, which is a good indication of strong growth. The mean weight of adult male bears was 321 pounds. The mean weight of adult female bears was 185 pounds.

You Can Help

This has truly been "everyone's" project in southwest Missouri and you can be part of the research. If anyone knows of a landowner, old rural general store, or small town museum that has a bear skin from a known location in Webster County, the Conservation Department would be interested in knowing about it. Contact Brad Jump at <Brad.Jump@mdc.mo.gov> or by calling 417-895-6880. You can also report bear sightings online at <mdc.mo.gov/node/11348>.

Daniel McKinley would have been pleased to find that a small pocket of bears held on in the most remote part of the state, and that his quote in relation to black bears, "although their day has long passed," is being proven wrong as Missouri's black bear population continues to expand into available habitat.

—Brad Jump
Urban Wildlife Biologist



201 W. RIVIERA DRIVE, SUITE B
JOPLIN, MO 64804

The Joplin Conservation Office, located in the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, is your local connection to Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife. Stop by and purchase a fishing/hunting license, attend a nature program, go for a hike, enjoy a picnic, or access Shoal Creek. Within the 190 acres of Wildcat Park, you will find a diverse mix of wildlife habitats rich with flora and fauna.

HOURS: Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm
Closed all state holidays
Audubon Center hours vary

DIRECTIONS: From I-44, take exit 6, and turn south on MO-86. Turn right on Riviera Drive to enter Wildcat Park.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-629-3423 to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

WEBSITE: mdc.mo.gov/node/292

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS

ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 7 ~ FRIDAY ~ 10AM–5PM

WILDCAT GLADES CONSERVATION & AUDUBON CENTER

No registration required (All ages) Join us in celebration of our five-year partnership at Wildcat Glades. A short ceremony at 10am will be followed by refreshments. Take home a tree to plant in your yard and enjoy activities throughout the day focusing on trees and habitats. Kids, come meet Smokey Bear from 3-5pm.

BIG SUGAR FALL HIKE

SEPTEMBER 14 ~ FRIDAY ~ 5–6:30PM

BIG SUGAR STATE PARK (near Pineville, MO)

Registration required (Ages 7 and up) Join us to get out and enjoy the splendid autumn weather while we search for wildlife and fall flowers.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES FAMILY FISHING NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 21 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6–7:30PM

WALTER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA

Registration required (Families) Gather your



family to discover the fun of catch-and-release fishing! We will review fishing basics then go to the pond for fishing. Participants are welcome to bring their own poles and bait; however, we will have a limited supply of both. Participants 16 and older must have a valid fishing permit.

Kids' Campfire Cooking



DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES KIDS' CAMPFIRE COOKING

OCTOBER 13 ~ SATURDAY ~ 4–6PM

WALTER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA

Registration required (Families) Camping

this fall? Then come learn some fun and tasty ways to cook a meal with your kids. Be prepared to sample our creations!



FIELD TO FREEZER

OCTOBER 19 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6:30–8:30PM

WILDCAT GLADES CONSERVATION & AUDUBON CENTER

Registration required (Ages 7 and up)

Taxidermist and Meat Processor Don Scott will give advice and show techniques on how to field dress your deer, prepare it for the taxidermist, and how to cut it and package it for the freezer.

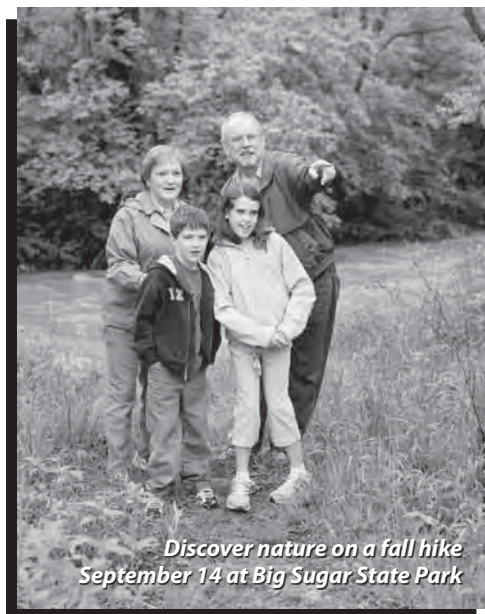
ASK THE NATURALIST

The outdoors has always been important to me growing up, what can I do to help the future of conservation in our state?

Every individual can ensure the future success of conservation in our state simply by sharing the passion we as Missourians possess for the outdoors. The challenge for our generation is that of generations before; both our actions and inactions will determine the health of the natural resources left to our children. As in the past, our future conservation success will rely on the coordinated efforts and partnerships with citizens, communities, and organizations. The Department's mission to protect and manage the state's forest, fish, and wildlife resources encourages all Missourians to discover and enjoy our natural resources today while enhancing those resources for future generations. Today we are fortunate past Missourians recognized the importance of the outdoors to the quality of our lives.

Sharing one's passion is a powerful way of keeping conservation in the hearts and minds of both ourselves and others. This can serve as a constant reminder that healthy outdoors is essential for our quality of life. Instill the future of conservation the next time you head outdoors by taking someone with you to discover nature and to help connect them to the outdoors. Simply sharing your passion of the outdoors with others is important to Missouri's continued conservation success.

– Kevin Badgley, Interpretive Center Manager



Discover nature on a fall hike
September 14 at Big Sugar State Park



4897 N. FARM ROAD 61
ASH GROVE, MO 65604

Facilities include an outdoor education center and archery, rifle, pistol, and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

September 14 – April 14

Monday & Thursday: 9am – 4:30pm

Friday – Sunday: 12noon – 4:30pm

April 15 – September 13

Monday: 9am – 4:30pm

Thursday: 9am – 7:30pm

Friday – Sunday: 12noon – 4:30pm

Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays and all state holidays. Hours are subject to change.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual and group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range fee: \$3 per booth per hour
- Trap/skeet range fee: \$3 per person per round of 25 clay targets
- Shotgun patterning range: \$3 per person per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Group use fee: \$20 per hour plus \$3 per round of 25 clay targets

DIRECTIONS: US Highway 160 west of Willard, turn south on Farm Road 61, and go 2.5 miles, facility on the west side of road.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-742-4361 or email

<DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov> with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

WEBSITE: mdc.mo.gov/node/288

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Labor Day September 3

Columbus Day October 8

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS

DISCOVER NATURE WOMEN MAP AND ORIENTEERING

SEPTEMBER 13 ~ THURSDAY ~ 6–8PM

Registration required (Women and girls ages 14–17 with an adult participant) Join



us for an introduction to map and orienteering. The Ozarks is known nationally for its outdoor activities. This class is designed to teach basic map reading and use of a compass. The skills not only allow the maximum outdoor experience but provide a basic principal of outdoor survival skills.

CROSS TRAIL OUTFITTERS FAMILY NIGHT OUT

SEPTEMBER 20 ~ THURSDAY ~ 5–8PM

No registration required (Ages 7 and up)

Join the folks from Cross Trail Outfitters to learn about their Youth Hunting Program. They cover a variety of topics including deer and turkey hunting, game calling, how to select hunting and fishing equipment, tree stand safety, and much more. For more information about Cross Trail Outfitters, visit their website at <teamcto.org>.

DISCOVER NATURE WOMEN BACKPACKING AND HIKING

SEPTEMBER 27 ~ THURSDAY ~ 6–8PM

Registration required (Women and girls ages 14–17 with an adult participant) Join us for an



introduction to backpacking and hiking. The Ozarks provides a number of opportunities to hike and backpack in some of the nation's finest outdoor venues. We will discuss basic skills in the areas of equipment, locations, first aid, and equipment packing.

DISCOVER HUNTING EFFECTIVE WING SHOOTING FOR THE HUNTER

OCTOBER 20 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8AM–5PM

Registration required (Ages 18 and up)



Join us for this premier wing shooting program and learn about wounding rates in waterfowl, performance differences of steel and lead shot shells, and how to improve your wing shooting and distance estimation skills.

DISCOVER HUNTING NRA–FIRST STEPS HANDGUN BASICS

OCTOBER 20 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30–11:30AM

Registration required (Ages 21 and up)



Join us for a NRA (National Rifle Association) First Steps handgun basics course and learn how to safely handle and shoot your handguns. You may bring your unloaded handgun to the class or use ours. You must be 21 years of age or older to participate in this program. This course does not satisfy the CCW (Carrying a Concealed Weapon) requirements under Missouri law.

CROSS TRAIL OUTFITTERS FAMILY NIGHT OUT

OCTOBER 18 ~ THURSDAY ~ 5–8PM

No registration required (Ages 7 and up)

Join the folks from Cross Trail Outfitters to learn about their Youth Hunting Program. They cover a variety of topics including deer and turkey hunting, game calling, how to select hunting and fishing equipment, tree stand safety, and much more. For more information about Cross Trail Outfitters, visit their website at <teamcto.org>.



Saturday ~ September 22 ~ 8:30am–3pm

A National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration

There will be fishing and shooting plus lots of conservation groups and displays to enjoy. The range will provide firearms and ammunition and the bows and arrows, but you must bring your own fishing equipment and bait. Call to receive a flier of the day's activities.

Deer Season Sight In

From October 28 to November 9, the range will be open daily from 9am to 4:30pm. Staff will be available to assist with bore sighting. Regular range fees apply.



Prepare for deer season now

Springfield Conservation Nature Center



4601 S. NATURE CENTER WAY
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804

The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). Indoors, enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through a variety of natural communities.

CURRENT HOURS:

March 1 – October 31

Building Tuesday – Saturday: 8am – 5pm
Sunday: 12noon – 5pm

Trails Sunday – Saturday: 8am – 8pm

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call **417-888-4237** to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

WEBSITE: mdc.mo.gov/node/287

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Registration begins September 1

If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

STORY TIME WITH MS. LADYBUG

SEPTEMBER 12 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11–11:30AM
No registration required (Ages 2–6) Join Volunteer Naturalist Linda Brown as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES DRAGONS OF THE INSECT WORLD

SEPTEMBER 15 ~ SATURDAY ~ 2–3:30PM
Registration required (Ages 6 and up with an adult mentor) Dragonflies may look beautiful and delicate to you, but to many insects they are fierce and hungry predators to be avoided. Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) and join Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik to learn about the lifestyles of these mysterious dragons of the insect world.



GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY— AND TAKE PICTURES

SEPTEMBER 18 ~ TUESDAY ~ 7–8PM

Registration required (Ages 12 and up) Outdoor photography typically involves nature as the main subject but photographing people in outdoor events can yield some wonderful images and memorable experiences. Get inspired by Volunteer Naturalist Bob Ball as he takes you on a photo adventure through outdoor experiences including fairs, festivals, sporting events, and more.

BACKPACKING FOR BEGINNERS

SEPTEMBER 20 ~ THURSDAY ~ 7–9PM

Registration required (Ages 10 and up) Join avid outdoorsmen Volunteer Specialist Don Brink and special guest Richard Donaldson for an introduction to backpacking. Learn about the types of equipment, things beginners should know, and places to go in the Ozarks. After attending this program, you'll be ready to venture out on your own.

BABES IN THE WOODS: MONARCHS

SEPTEMBER 21 ~ FRIDAY ~ 10–11AM

SEPTEMBER 22 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10–11AM

Registration required (Ages 0–2) Flutter in with your 0–2 year old and learn about beautiful monarch butterflies. Bring a stroller and join the fun.

GREAT OUTDOORS DAY

SEPTEMBER 22 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30AM–3PM

No registration required (All ages) Parents, grandparents, and adult mentors, bring your youngster(s) to meet for a day of outdoor activities at the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area and Andy Dalton Shooting Range. Activities include archery, canoeing, fishing, shooting sports, fly-tying and casting, tree identification, Discover Nature stations, and several informational booths and demonstrations. Call the nature center to receive a flier.

CONSERVATION TEEN CLUB AMAZING AMPHIBIANS

SEPTEMBER 25 ~ TUESDAY ~ 6:30–8PM

Registration required (Ages 12–17) Come and learn about these amazing creatures. The evening will include a presentation and a variety of games such as Salamander Match Game and Frog Frenzy. Live amphibians will also be on display. Don't miss out on this evening of fun. Snacks will be provided.



TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

SEPTEMBER

Prairies & Glades of Missouri

Photography by Bob Ball

OCTOBER

Missouri Ozark Landscapes

Photography by Ed Martin

CONSERVATION KIDS' CLUB SENSE-SATIONAL HIKE

SEPTEMBER 27 ~ THURSDAY ~ 6:30–7:45PM

Registration required (Ages 7–12) Unlike people, animals rely upon their senses to find food and avoid predators. Learn how our senses differ from animals as we practice using them along this special trail hike. Remember to dress for the weather. Please, no younger siblings and only one adult per group of kids.

HIKING CLUB

SEPTEMBER 29 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8AM–5PM

Registration required (Ages 18 and up) Enjoy a hike through Piney Creek Wilderness with Volunteer Naturalist Carmen Hallock. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Hike is five miles and moderate to difficult.

LITTLE ACORNS

Registration required (Ages 3–6) Programs are 45 minutes in length. Please limit LITTLE ACORNS programs to one per month.

HEY! BIG DADDY

SEPTEMBER 5 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

Hey! Who is hurrying, scurrying, and weaving in and out of the leaf litter? It's Big Daddy Longlegs! Hurry in to find out some amazing facts about these long-legged forest creatures.

SENSATIONAL SEEDS

SEPTEMBER 19 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

Bring your little "sprout" and find out what seeds need to travel, get planted, and grow.

FALL CRAWL

SEPTEMBER 28 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM

SEPTEMBER 29 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM

Ever wonder why things look so different in the fall? We'll talk about fall weather, the falling leaves, and what animals are doing. Weather permitting we'll take a short stroll to enjoy the fall weather.

Springfield Conservation Nature Center

OCTOBER EVENTS

Registration begins October 2

If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

LITTLE ACORNS

Registration required (Ages 3–6) Programs are 45 minutes in length. Please limit LITTLE ACORNS programs to one per month.

CRAZY CLIMBERS

OCTOBER 5 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM
Up, down, and around, we'll talk about birds that love to climb trees. From woodpeckers to nuthatches, we'll discuss these cool climbers and what they like to eat.
Registration begins September 25.

SPIDER SAFARI

OCTOBER 12 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM
OCTOBER 13 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM
Spiders aren't so bad! Scurry in to learn what spiders eat, where they live, and why they're good to have around.

BEAR TALES

OCTOBER 17 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM
OCTOBER 20 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM
The black bear population is increasing across southwest Missouri. These interesting animals represent all things that are wild in the Ozarks. Join us for a wonderful time as we learn about these amazing animals.

PRIMITIVE SKILLS DAY

OCTOBER 7 ~ SUNDAY ~ 1–5PM
No registration required (All ages) *Primitive Skills Day* returns! See demonstrations in flint knapping, bow and arrow construction, making cordage out of plant fibers, beadwork, and fire making from some of the Ozarks best primitive skills specialists. Try your hand at some of these age-old skills. All ages. Drop by anytime.

Primitive Skills Day returns!
October 7



STORY TIME WITH MS. LADYBUG

OCTOBER 10 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11–11:30AM
No registration required (Ages 2–6) Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

NATURE AND THE ARTS THE MISSOURI OZARK LANDSCAPES

OCTOBER 12 ~ FRIDAY ~ 7–8PM
Registration required (Ages 12 and up)
Missouri's Natural Areas and landscapes are featured through the eyes of artist/photographer Ed Martin. Rather than capturing classic postcard images, he strives to depict a refined personal perspective on the soul and the beauty of these Ozark treasures. Having lived within these landscapes, Martin has come to see them more as portraits of the areas rather than just depictions of a beautiful scene. Ed Martin's photography is on display in the nature center lobby throughout the month of October.

CONSERVATION TEEN CLUB SHOOTING 22s

OCTOBER 13 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30–11:30AM
Registration required (Ages 12–17) Learn how to shoot 22-caliber rifles at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range at the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. After classroom discussion, it is out to the range to practice and test your skills. So whether you're a beginner or an expert shot, meet at the range and enjoy the fun! Refreshments will be provided.

BABES IN THE WOODS: HIBERNATION

OCTOBER 18 ~ THURSDAY ~ 10–11AM
OCTOBER 20 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10–11AM
Registration required (Ages 0–2) Bring your 0–2 year old and find out who's getting ready for a winter-long nap.

FOR ADULTS ONLY FALL FLOATING

OCTOBER 20 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8–10AM
Registration required (Ages 18 and up)
Whether you are an expert or novice, come join us for a fall float on Lake Springfield. We'll go over some basic strokes before we head out to view the lake and surrounding fall colors. We'll meet at Southwood Access on Lake Springfield. Make sure to dress appropriately and bring water. You don't need a partner to attend.

Halloween Happening–Alien Invaders
October 25 and 26



DISCOVER NATURE WOMEN CANOEING LAKE SPRINGFIELD

OCTOBER 20 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10:30AM–12:30PM
Registration required (Women and girls ages 12–17 with an adult participant) Whether you are an expert or novice, come join us for a fall float on Lake Springfield. We'll go over some basic strokes before we head out to view the lake and surrounding fall colors. We'll meet at Southwood Access on Lake Springfield. Make sure to dress appropriately and bring water. You don't need a partner to attend.



HALLOWEEN HAPPENING ALIEN INVADERS

OCTOBER 25 ~ THURSDAY ~ 6:30–9:30PM
OCTOBER 26 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6:30–9:30PM
No registration required (All ages) Get ready for some nighttime fun and surprises during our annual guided Halloween hikes. Missouri is under attack from aliens and your help is needed to fight the war on these space invaders! Expect a few surprises, learn a conservation fact or two, and laugh out loud as you encounter these aliens face-to-face. If you liked *Men In Black III*, you'll love *Alien Invaders*! Guided hikes will be led on a first-come, first-served basis with the last hike leaving at 9pm. Other activities will take place in the building while waiting for a hike. A free shuttle will be available for overflow parking at nearby Bryan College. It's sure to be insightful, not frightful. Fun for all ages.

HIKING CLUB

OCTOBER 27 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8AM–2PM
Registration required (Age 18 and up) The Cedar Gap Plateau is recognized as the second highest point in Missouri. Volunteer Naturalist Pat Stritzel will lead you to this point and to where three watersheds begin—the Gasconade River, Finley River, and Bryant Creek. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Hike is four miles and difficult.

Shepherd of the Hills FISH HATCHERY & CONSERVATION CENTER



483 HATCHERY RD.
BRANSON, MO 65616

The Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center is located on 221 acres in Branson off Highway 165 next to Table Rock Dam. Outdoors, visitors will experience an active fish hatchery with 700,000 rainbow and brown trout in 30 pools with opportunities to feed the fish. Indoors, enjoy a 3,500 gallon aquarium and hands-on nature exhibits and purchase hunting and fishing permits. The area also features four hiking trails, a picnic area, a boat ramp, and access to Lake Taneycomo.

FACILITY HOURS:

Memorial Day – Labor Day

Sunday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Remainder of year

Sunday – Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

AREA AND TRAIL HOURS:

4am – 10pm

The area is open to fishing 24 hours daily, but special permits and regulations do apply. Check the current fishing regulations or call for details.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-334-4865, Ext. 0, to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

WEBSITE: mdc.mo.gov/node/290

FISHING

LAKE TANEYCOMO:

Before fishing on Lake Taneycomo, become familiar with the regulations and restrictions. Come by for a free brochure of the entire lake including fishing accesses. For specific details about trout fishing here and across the state, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/5603.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS

FALCONRY

SEPTEMBER 15 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10AM–12NOON

Registration required (Families and Scouts)

Falconry dates back to medieval times and there are still people who practice it today. We will have a trained falconer at the hatchery to explain what falconry entails. In addition to a brief indoor presentation, we will take a red-tailed hawk outdoors to watch it hunt. Bring your camera and see this amazing cooperation between humans and nature.

NIGHT SOUNDS HIKE

SEPTEMBER 22 ~ SATURDAY ~ 7–9PM

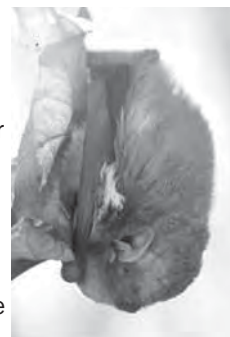
Registration required (All ages) We may not see everything at night, but we often hear many sounds. Some of them are quite unusual. This short night hike will give you the chance to listen and identify some of the great night sounds. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. This is a guided outdoor hike.

GOING BATTY FOR HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 26 ~ FRIDAY ~ 7–9:30PM

Registration

required (Ages 6 and up) With 2012 being the "International Year of the Bat," here is your chance to learn about the bats of our area and have fun at the same time. We will dispel myths, show how they are important to nature, and share how you can help our local bats. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. This will be a guided outdoor hike.



BROWN TROUT

OCTOBER 20 ~ SATURDAY ~

4–5:30PM

Registration required (All ages) Fall is the best time to see and catch brown trout on Taneycomo. This program will help you understand more about how the brown trout are raised and strategies on catching some. The program will also take a short hike to see our "fish ladder" to see some of the brown trout jumping up the series of raised pools that connect the new trout facility to Lake Taneycomo.



*Fish ladder
at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery*

Did you know there are "jumping trout" at the Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery?

During the months of October and November, large numbers of brown trout will use the new fish ladder to travel from Lake Taneycomo to the brown trout facility. This new fish ladder is a series of raised pools that allow the trout to make small "jumps" to move over 30 vertical feet to the waiting pools of the new hatchery facility. The fast moving water attracts the trout to move upstream during the breeding season. Bring your camera to the Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery during October and November and see if you can "catch" a trout on film. They are faster than you think.

– John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager

Southwest Regional Office



2630 N. MAYFAIR AVE
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65803

The Southwest Regional Office is conveniently located just west of the intersection of US-65 and Kearney in Springfield. The public may obtain information on land management, nuisance wildlife, educational opportunities, river and pond management, and more, as well as purchase hunting and fishing permits and obtain area brochures for Conservation Department areas.

PHONE: 417-895-6880

HOURS: Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm
Closed all state holidays

WEBSITE: mdc.mo.gov/node/257

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER EVENTS

TRAPPING-LURE AND BAIT MAKING

SEPTEMBER 29 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM-12NOON

ROBERT E TALBOT CONSERVATION AREA (near Mt. Vernon, MO)

Register by calling 417-461-4586 (All ages) Students will learn the basics of formulating and creating bait and lure to be used in attracting furbearers. Students will participate in a hands-on class designed to give the student a good foundation to build on. Topics discussed will involve types of baits, lures, and attractants and the differences between them. Other topics will include gland removal, ingredients, and myths of the lure industry. Instructors will guide the students through the process of creating a lure and bait, and then the students will develop their own to take home and use.



Learn Trapping Skills

TRAPPING CLINIC

OCTOBER 6 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8AM-5PM AND

OCTOBER 7 ~ SUNDAY ~ 6AM-12NOON

ROBERT E TALBOT CONSERVATION AREA (near Mt. Vernon, MO)

Register by calling 417-461-4586 (All ages) The clinic will be conducted in a one-on-one setting with students working side-by-side with experts in the field. Students will have the opportunity to gain a fundamental knowledge of trapping through a hands-on approach. Skills developed will include trap setting, skinning, and complete fur handling.

Hunter Education



Register online for all Hunter Education courses at

[<mdc.mo.gov/node/3722>](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3722).

A complete listing of courses is also included on this website.

These free 10-hour courses are required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. Students ages 11 and up must pass a test at the end of the course to be certified.

Students under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult and show proof of age.

If you have any previous Missouri hunting or fishing permits or a Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, bring them to class.

Location	Date	Day/Time
Springfield Conservation Nature Center	September 7 & 8	Friday, 6-9pm
For questions, call 417-888-4237		Saturday, 8am-5pm
Andy Dalton Shooting Range	September 14 & 15	Friday, 6-10pm
For questions, call 417-742-4361		Saturday, 8am-6pm
Dewey Short Visitor Center	September 20, 21 & 22	Thursday, 6-10pm
4500 State Hwy 165, Branson, MO		Friday, 6-10pm
For questions, call 417-334-4865		Saturday, 9am-12noon
Springfield Conservation Nature Center	October 5 & 6	Friday, 6-9pm
For questions, call 417-888-4237		Saturday, 8am-5pm
Andy Dalton Shooting Range	October 12 & 13	Friday, 6-10pm
For questions, call 417-742-4361		Saturday, 8am-6pm

Fall Firearms

Turkey Hunting

Season Dates: October 1-31

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Season Limit: Two turkeys of either sex. Both may be taken on the same day

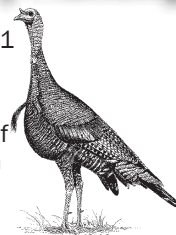
Methods Allowed:

- Shotguns (including .410s) with shot not larger than No. 4.
- Longbows, compound bows or recurve bows of any draw weight.
- Hand-held string-releasing devices
- Illuminated sights, scopes and quickpoint sights

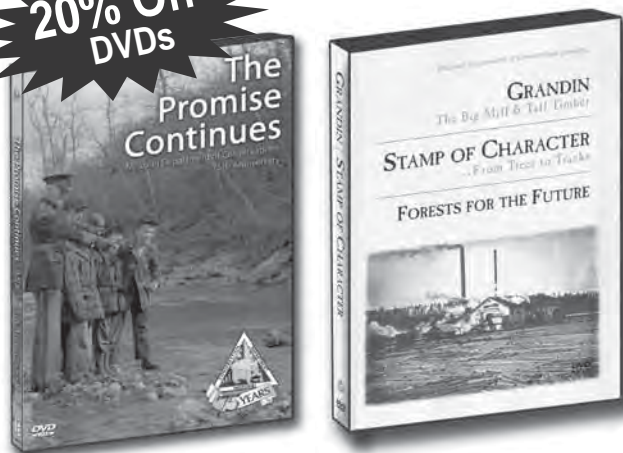
Valid Permits:

- Resident or Nonresident Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting Permit
- Resident Landowner Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting Permit

Pick up a copy of the 2012 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information



**20% Off
DVDs**



DVDs are available at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center and Southwest Regional Office for \$8 each

Missouri Department of Conservation

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A National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration

at the
**Andy Dalton Shooting Range and
Bois D'Arc Conservation Area**

Saturday • September 22 • 8:30am–3pm

See page 3 for more information.

Conservation Area Showcase:

BUSIEK STATE FOREST AND WILDLIFE AREA

LOCATION

This beautiful area is located in Christian county between Ozark and Branson. Highway 65 bisects the area so over a thousand acres is east of Highway 65 and more than a thousand acres is to the west. The main entrance is near the bottom of a hill on the east side of Highway 65 near the 27.2 mile marker. The campsites are on the east side, and the shooting range is on the west side.

HISTORY

The Conservation Department purchased the original 740-acre tract of land from Dr. Paul Busiek with the help of a donation from the seller. He was allowed to provide a name for the area according to policy at the time and wanted it named the Urban J. and Erma M. Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area in honor of his parents. For conciseness, the name was shortened to Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area with the caveat that Dr. Busiek could eventually place a memorial marker on the area with his parents' names. The second major tract of land added to the area was 745 acres purchased from Mr. Don Anderson, again made possible by a sizable donation from the seller. The area grew to its current size of 2,505 acres through other purchases and donations from others—including another 599 acres from Mr. Anderson. You will notice that Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area is one of the few conservation areas in the state that was not renamed a "Conservation Area." Dr. Busiek would have had to approve the name change and stood firm to the fact that he offered the property specifically for the trees and wildlife.

The Carter Cemetery is located on the hilltop just south of the main parking lot and contains many interesting old headstones. When visiting the cemetery, please give proper respect to the grounds. There are also some interesting large, old culvert parts visible from the trail on the west side of Busiek reflecting the fact that this area was a working farm and transportation route in years past. With some exploring, there is also a rusted antique car to be found on the east side.

FISHING

Although two creeks merge within the boundaries of Busiek, neither Camp Creek nor Woods Fork Creek keep enough water year round to support sport fishing. Small fish may be seen in the creeks and in pools when the creeks are not flowing, but fishing is not really an option. There are no large ponds on the area to provide fishing opportunities either.

HUNTING

Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area is open to statewide regulations for hunting, except that deer hunting is limited to archery and muzzleloading methods. Food plots are maintained on the area and various species of wildlife may be found. However, the intense recreational use on the area and high density of hunters make Busiek only a moderately good place to hunt.

HIKING and CAMPING

There are over 18 miles of trails available to explore. These trails are multiuse, so you may see a bicyclist or horseback rider during your hike. Trail distances and difficulty vary, so there is probably one that meets your needs. Trailhead signs and maps are available on site.

Camping is by written permit only. The permit is free, but must be obtained at the Southwest Regional Office prior to camping at one of the eight designated camping sites. (See page 7 for contact information.) Most campsites are located along Woods Fork Creek just east of the main parking lot. All camping is primitive and there are no facilities or conveniences provided on site. For more information about Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area, visit the website at mdc.mo.gov/a8109.

– Frances Main, Resource Forester